

# **Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland**

**September 16, 2009/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**The Maryland Department of Planning**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

## **Meeting Summary**

*Members:* Jon Laria, Gerrit Knaap, Derick Berlage, David Carey, Virginia Clagett, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Carol Gilbert, Jan Gardner, Richard Hall, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Jeanette Ortiz (representing Asuntha Chiang-Smith), Dru Schmidt-Perkins

*Attendees:* Marty Baker, Martin Bierbaum, Peter Boussein, Jamie Bridges, Amy DeHuff, Alan Girard, David Gray, Les Knapp, Steve Lafferty, David Lever, Rachel McCullough, Amanda Mock, Tom Reynolds, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Barbara Zektick

*MDP Staff:* Amanda Conn, Nicole Diehlmann, Pat Goucher, Roz Hamlett, Rich Josephson, Jenny King, John Leocha, Shannon Marino Stephanie Martins, Sharon Reichlyn, Pat Russell, Joe Tassone, Shelley Wasserman

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair, Jon Laria, welcomed the members and thanked everyone including those on the workgroups for their hard work. Mr. Laria noted that the focus of the meeting will be on issues that are time sensitive.

Commissioner Jan Gardner introduced Commissioner David Gray.

Mr. Knaap advised members of an upcoming event – *Smart Growth in Maryland*. The event is scheduled for September 22, 2009 at the Architecture Building of the University of Maryland and is being co-sponsored by the National Center for Smart Growth. Panel members will include members of the Task Force. Mr. Knaap said this will be an open discussion and more details can be found on the University of Maryland website. Jenny King will send members more information on this.

### **Revitalization Subcommittee Update**

Ms. Carol Gilbert said the Committee has been working with a number of people to finalize a draft report that is structured around Maryland's framework. The purpose is to look at opportunities for accelerating revitalization. It is realized that some modest funding is also

helpful. The report defines what is needed and meant by Neighborhood Revitalization. Ms. Gilbert then briefed the Task Force about the framework of the draft report, noting several specific target areas, which included the need for identifying what revitalization should look like in the State of Maryland.

Ms. Gilbert stated that the next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mr. Laria thanked Ms. Gilbert for her hard work and noted this is an important framing device for the Task Force.

### Indicators Workgroup

Mr. Laria stated that the workgroup was mandated by the legislature to come up with additional indicators in specific categories. He noted that the group did a very good job in framing these issues and went to work following up from the last Task Force meeting (July 6, 2009).

Mr. Coyman noted that the take home message for all is that indicators are very complicated. After the last meeting the workgroup reviewed the two lists again. Originally, the workgroup was not comfortable with the naming convention for the two lists and they were too long. So it was decided to change the names to List 1 and List 2. Mr. Coyman said they looked at seven areas specified in the Bill and found that some of the indicators had to be moved from List 1 to 2 because of its tenuous relation to Smart Growth. He noted that at this time, all of the indicators require more study.

He summarized the workgroup report recommendations. List 1 – addressed the legislation from subject area; stating that they will work List 1 through technical review first. List 2 – The workgroup couldn't come to a full consensus using the criteria. The Criteria used for the two lists can be found in the workgroup's memorandum to the Task Force, which is also on the Task Force's website.

Mr. Coyman said the next steps include taking List 1 to technical review. A technical group will be formed who will be responsible for further study of the Lists with List 1 being studied first. The group will consist of MDP, MDE, Smart Growth Center, representatives from local governments and other stakeholders. He said the technical group will report on any issues of the process of collecting data and being able to report on that data. The technical group will then prepare a brief summary to report back to the workgroup and eventually report back to the Task Force. Mr. Coyman said the group also needs to create a list of stakeholders. The initial recommendation to the legislature is that indicators needs more study.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins said the workgroup did a good job and thanked them for consulting with her. She felt that List 2 needs further work and asked if List 2 could also go through the same technical review as List 1.

Mr. Dillman also thanked the group for all of their efforts and inquired about problems they encountered with finding data relevant to the legislative charge as it relates to agri-business.

Mr. Berlage noted that the danger is having too many indicators. He suggested trying to measure achievement of a goal to narrow down the list.

Ms. Kenney stated that some indicators will only be apparent after a period of time.

Mr. Coyman stated that the policy indicator should be the next step – look at what needs to be measured. Lists need to be thought through and determine how to fit them with a municipality, gather the data and see if the results are close to what is needed.

Delegate Clagett suggested adding the fiscal cost of growth.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins said she has been looking at some of the indicators as a number; some need to have a narrative and/or explanation of why it is the number it is. The indicators need to be put in a context that people can understand.

Mr. Coyman said regarding the issue of building permits/type data will be addressing some of the short comings that are in the analysis. He thanked Jenny King and Stephanie Martins for their input about this issue.

Mr. Laria stated that this is excellent work so far with this workgroup. He suggested the next steps should include:

- Package it in an appropriate way and send to Legislature to let them know the status of work thus far;
- Invite dialog with legislators and leadership of Task Force within the status of work; and
- Put some more specificity on next steps prior to sending out to the Legislature.

He asked the Task Force to support this course of action with the understanding that the workgroup come back with more information about how the “next step” piece will proceed (technical review work).

### 2010 Legislative Update

Mr. Laria asked Mr. Hall if he would update the members about legislative issues with respect to the next General Assembly.

Mr. Hall stated that the Task Force will sunset in December 2010 and there has been discussion about drafting legislation to continue the Task Force. Mr. Hall said this could sunset in the year 2020. He noted that membership should be considered but that his thoughts were to not do much with any membership changes since it could be controversial if changed.

Mr. Hall also noted the Historic Preservation Tax Credit (which will also sunset in 2010) will be on the 2010 legislative agenda. The Historic Preservation Tax Credit is a critical smart growth

tool. He mentioned the grand opening of Millers Court in Baltimore, which was attended by the Governor and the Mayor of Baltimore. Millers Court used historic tax credits and has become an excellent tax credit success. Mr. Hall said we need to reauthorize the tax credit for these types of projects; reiterating that the program will die if not reauthorized in the 2010 Session. It is very important to get this Bill passed, and stressed this is a “key” Bill.

Mr. Laria noted that both of these Bills are in the Task Force report issued last year. He stressed the need to keep working hard so that these Bills will be successful.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins said with regards to the Tax Credit Program, we need to be careful how we speak about this tool and be creative as to how and why we keep it.

### State Development Plan Briefing

Mr. Laria introduced Rich Josephson, noting that he will be delivering a status report on where the State Development Plan (SDP) process is. He noted that it is important to see this and to learn how it is evolving. The Task Force can then provide feedback.

Rich Josephson began his presentation by stating that he will be covering some of the basics and structure of PlanMD. He noted PlanMD has been a working title for the SDP.

Mr. Josephson’s PowerPoint presentation included Purpose of Plan; authority for doing the Plan; process and outreach (which is a key component). Mr. Josephson felt that the key purpose of the Plan is to look at how State and local efforts have certain things in common. Mr. Josephson also touched on process and structure for developing the Plan. He said he will be getting into substance more at some of the next meetings and staff will be giving an update at next month’s meeting. Mr. Josephson said there are quite a few opportunities under the Outreach Communication Study. Opportunities include a Planning Wiki/Twitter. Another planning effort includes a kick off, which is now in the works and will hopefully occur within the next few months or early next year. Mr. Josephson read through future plans and went through progress to date which included:

- Stakeholder interviews – in progress
- Interagency Coordination – group meets next month
- Mapping Tools – working on a tool that looks at PFA’s; need to start thinking about out to target them
- Funding and Partnership Opportunities – bringing in some federal partners and potential sources of grant funds

Mr. Josephson’s PowerPoint presentation will be on the Task Force’s website.

Mr. Laria asked if anyone had questions following Mr. Josephson’s presentation.

Mr. Berlage inquired about a land use map for the State of Maryland?

Mr. Hall responded that there is already a PFA/protected land map. He noted that there are no plans to do a Statewide zoning map.

Mr. Josephson added that they plan to do a refinement of the PFA/Protected land map.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins said she was interested in how a map could be used, i.e. Greenprint, Agprint, etc. She said we need to illuminate land use opportunities where there are issues.

Ms. Gardner asked if prior to the kick-off early next year will there be more content or will you receive comments then work on the content?

Mr. Josephson responded that they have some products to get more feedback and that there will be more content added as they go along.

It was asked about the the status of the 12 Visions within PlanMD, Mr. Josephson responded that yes the 12 Visions would be the foundation.

Mr. Coyman inquired about local comprehensive plans informing the State Plan.

Mr. Hall responded that the PFA/Protected land map is highly informed by the local comprehensive plan.

#### Public Comments

Frederick County Commissioner David Gray thanked the Task Force for having public Task Force meetings and was very impressed with everyone's involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.